(c) M/s Air Deccan have already commenced operations to Surat airport with a daily flight from Mumbai to Surat and *vice-versa.*

(d) Development works also include expansion of the existing runway.

Naresh Chandra Committee Report

7. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Naresh Chandra Committee has submitted its 2nd part of the report;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee on improving the aviation infrastructure and security;

(c) in what manner the Committee has advised restructuring of AAI;

(d) whether Government have studied the Report and initiated steps to formulate the civil aviation policy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Naresh Chandra Committee has submitted 2nd Part of its report on 2.11.2004.

(b) and (c) The Committee has made following main recommendations regarding aviation infrastructure, security and restructuring of Airports Authority of India (AAI):-

(i) unbundle the AAI & larger airports to be managed by independent corporate entity & smaller airports be grouped on regional basis & corporatised.

(ii) The consultancy, architectural and construction wings of AAI should be hived off as a separate company.

(iii) The cargo operations of AAI also should be hived off into a separate company.

(iv) Establishment of Aviation Economic Regulatory Authority.

(v) BCAS to remain nodal agency for aviation security.

(vi) Security being a soverign function, entire expenditure on aviation security may be borne by the Government.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The recommendations of the committee have been examined in consultation with various stakeholders and a comprehensive national civil aviation policy is being drafted.

Haj Pilgrims stranded at Jeddah

8. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hundreds of Haj Pilgrims were stranded at Jeddah due to cancellation of Scheduled flights to India;

(b) if so, what alternative arrangements were made to bring back the pilgrims; and

(c) the details of period the pilgrims had to remain in Jeddah and the date by which they were brought to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

New European Regulations for Airlines

9. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that European regulations have come into effect from the 17th February, 2005 whereby airlines can be forced to pay compensation to passengers for flight delays and cancellation for flights originating from European airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how far this would affect the operations of Air India and other international airlines; and

(d) what are the provisions in the regulations for delays on account of natural calamities and causes like fog, etc?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. According to an information paper circulated by European Union during the 35th Session of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) held in Montreal from 28th October to